

Arabic (in the Hebrew script)

Letters of the Alphabet

Arabic	Hebrew	Transliteration
ا	א	'
ب	ב	b
ت	ת	t
ث	ת	θ (th)
ج	ג	j (also ġ or g)
ح	ח	ḥ
خ	כ (final ך)	x (kh)
د	ד	d
ذ	ד	ḏ (dh)
ر	ר	r
ز	ז	z
س	ס	s
ش	ש	š (sh)
ص	צ (final ץ)	ṣ
ض	-	ḍ (see notes)
ط	ט	ṭ
ظ	-	ẓ (see notes)
ع	ע	'
غ	ג	γ (gh)

ف	פ (final ף)	f
ق	ק	q
ك	כ (final ך)	k
ل	ל	l
م	מ (final ם)	m
ن	נ (final ן)	n
ه ، ة	ת ، ת	h, t (see notes)
و	ו	w
ي	י	y

Vowels and Diphthongs

آ	א	'a	آ	א	'ā	ا	א	ā (á)
إ	א	'i	إي	אי	'ī	او	א	aw (aū)
أ	א	'u	أو	א	'ū	اي	אי	ay (aī)

Letters Representing Non-Arabic Consonants

This list is not exhaustive. It should be noted that a letter in this group may have more than one phonetic value, depending on the country or area where it is used, and that the transliteration will vary accordingly.

گ	ג	g	چ	תְּש	c (ch)	پ	פ	p
گ	ג	g	ج	תְּש	c (ch)	ف	ב	v
ق	ג	g	ژ	זְש	ž (zh)	پ	ב	v

Notes

1. *Alif* for the support of *hamzah* is not represented in the transliteration, see notes.
2. The *Maghrebi* variations of *ف* and *ق* are transliterated *ƒ* and *q* respectively.
3. *Ṭā' Marbūṭah* ة in a word in the construct state is transliterated *t*.

RULES OF APPLICATION

ا (*Alif*)

May be used in the following:

To represent all initial vowels, short and long, expressed only through *ʾ* as indicated in the table.

'ab	أب	אַב
'iðā	إِذَا	אִדָּא
'uns	أَنْسَ	אַנְס
'ālah	آلَة	אַלָּה
'īmān	إِيْمَان	אִימָן
'ulā	أُولَى	אוּלָּא

When medial or final position, *alif* by default denotes the long vowel *ā*. However, *ā* can not be expressed through *ʾ*, and is transliterated instead as *ā* respectively.

fā'il	فَاعِل	פָּעִל
bāb	بَاب	בָּב
saḥāb	سَحَاب	סַחָב
danā	دَنَا	דָּנָא

و (*Wāw*)

As indicated in the table, *و* may represent:

The transliterated consonant *ʾ* w, respectively.

waḍ'	وَضِع	וַדַּע
'iwaḍ	عَوْض	עוּדַע
naḥw	نَحْو	נַחוּ

The long vowel *ū* transliterated *u*.

'ūqiyyah	أَوْقِيَة	אוּקִיָּה
'ūd	عُود	עוּד

ṣūrah	صورة	צורה
'abū	أبو	אבּו
The diphthong <i>aw</i> is transliterated אָו .		
'awj	أوج	אָוּג
yawm	يوم	יּוֹם
law	لو	לוֹ

ي (Yā')

As indicated in the table, ي may represent:

The transliterated consonant **י** *y*, respectively.

yad	يد	יָד
ḥiyal	حیل	חַיַּל
kay	כי	כַּי

The long vowel *ī* is transliterated **יִ**.

'īḏān	إيدان	אִידָן
'īd	عيد	עִיד
jamīl	جميل	גַּמִּיל
fī	في	פִּי

The diphthong *aī* (*ay*) is transliterated **יַאֵ**, respectively.

'aīsar	أيسر	אַיְסַר
šaīx	شيخ	שַׁיַךְ
'aīnay	عيني	עַיְנַי

A final dotless *yā'* ى, or *alif dagger* denotes the long vowel *ā* (*á*) and is transliterated as **אַ**.

'ilā	إلى	אַלָא
'alā	على	עַלָא
ḥattā	حتى	חַתָא
musammā	مسمى	מַסְמָא
Muṣṭafā	مصطفى	מַצְטָפָא

The Transliteration of Arabic Orthographic Symbols

The signs listed below are frequently omitted from unvocalized Arabic writing and printing; their presence or absence must then be inferred. They are represented in transliteration according to the following rules:

ء *Hamzah*

(a) *Hamzah* is supported on the three semivowels (أ, إ, ئ, ؤ), and is not represented in the transliteration.

(b) When medial or final position, *hamzah* is transliterated as ʾ (*alif*), respectively.

dā'im	دائم	דאָם
Yū'īl	يُوئِيل	יוֹאֵיל
mas'alah	مسألة	מַסְאַלָה
ra's	رأس	רֹאס
mu'min	مؤمن	מֻאָמֵן
šay'	شيء	שֵׂי
xaṭi'a	خطئ	כָּטָא

آ *Maddah*

(a) The initial long vowel *ā* is represented by the sign *maddah* ʾ and is transliterated as ʾ, respectively.

'āmīn	آمين	אָמִין
'ānas	آنس	אָנס

(b) When medial, it represents the combination of two *alif*'s written in one *alif* with the sign *maddah*, representing thus the long vowel in sequence 'ā transliterated as ʾ.

Qur'ān	قرآن	קוראַן
ra'āh	رآه	ראָה
ma'āb	مآب	מאָב

Šaddah (*Tašdīd*)

(a) Two occurring consonants are represented by a single consonant bearing the sign *šaddah* ّ, indicating prolongation. In the transliteration, *šaddah* is represented by the Hebrew sign *dāgēš*.

šawwāl	شَوّال	שׁוּוּל
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'allam	عَلَّمَ	עלם
ḥajj	حَجَّ	חג
'umm	أُم	אם
sayyid	سَيِّد	סיד
'ayyām	أَيَّام	אֵיָם

(b) In the *nisbah*, if the final vowel (grammatical case) is not found on the suffix ي *-iyy*, then the suffix is transliterated as ي *-ī*, despite the presence of the sign *šaddah*.

miṣrī	مِصْرِي	מִצְרִי
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Compare with:

miṣriyyu	مِصْرِيّ	מִצְרִי
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'irāqī	عِرَاقِي	עִרְקִי
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Compare with:

'irāqiyyu	عِرَاقِيّ	עִרְקִי
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(c) The word for God, الله *Allāh*, does not bear *dāgēš* in the transliteration, despite the presence of *šaddah* in any form.

Allāh	الله	אַלֶּלָה
bil-lāh	بِالله	בַּאֶלֶּלָה
lil-lāh	لله	לֶלָה
bismi l-lāh	بِسْمِ الله	בִּסְם אֶלֶּלָה

(d) Other than transliterating double consonants via *dāgēš*. When a final ה *he* is followed by a grammatical suffix (or vowel), *dāgēš* is written to indicate that *he* is not silent but fully pronounced.

lahu	له	לֶה
ma'ahu	معه	מַעֵה
bihi	به	בֵּה

Sukūn

When the preceding consonant is not followed by a vowel, the sign *sukūn* ◌ْ is written above the letter to indicate the absence of vowel, thus *sukūn* is transliterated as *schwa* ◌◌.

'aḥmad	أَحْمَد	אַחְמַד
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nafs	نَفْس	נֶפֶס
šams	شَمْس	שֶׁמֶס
'ahl	أَهْل	אַהֶל

Alif Maqṣūrah

Other than *alif*, the long vowel *ā* may be expressed by the superscript *alif maṣqūrah* ٱ, and is transliterated as ٱ.

'ilāh	إِلَٰه	אַלֶּה
ḏālik	ذَٰلِكَ	דָּלֶךְ
hāḏā	هَٰذَا	הָדָא
hāḏihi	هَٰذِهِ	הָדִיה
lākin	لَٰكِنْ	לָכֵן

Waṣlah

When a word ends in a vowel (grammatical suffix) and the latter is followed by the definite article 'al/-. The pronunciation of the final vowel is elided with the definite article, meaning, the vowel in 'al/- is not pronounced and the sign *waṣlah* is written above *alif* ٱ., i.e.,

bābu l-qasri بَابُ الْقَصْرِ

However, there is no sign in Hebrew equivalent to the *waṣlah*, therefore, the final vowel (grammatical case suffix) is written but the *alif* in the definite article is left unmarked and unpronounced.

'Abū l-Āfīyah	أَبُو الْآفِيَّةِ	אָבוּ אֶלְעֶפֶיָה
'akala l-waladu ṭ-ṭa'āma	أَكَلَ الْوَلَدُ الطَّاعَمَ	אָכַל אֶלְוֹלָד אֶלְטָעָם
šaraḥu l-'ustāḏu d-darsa	شَرَحَ الْأُسْتَاذُ الدَّرْسَ	שָׂרַח אֶלְאֶסְתָּאד אֶלְדֶּרֶס

Tanwīn

(a) There are three signs that mark the indefinite forms in nouns and adjectives, following the grammatical case and are transliterated as follows:

Nominative	-un	ـ	וְ
Accusative	-an	ـ	וְ
Genitive	-in	ـ	וְ

(b) However, there are no equivalent sign in Hebrew, and instead are fully written, thus:

qawmun	قَوْمٌ	קוֹמִין
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waladan	وَلَدًا	וּלְדָן
maṭarin	مَطَرٍ	מִטְרָן

(c) Nouns and adjectives that carry the indefinite accusative form always bear an orthographic *alif* (silent *alif*). However, this is not carried over in the transliteration.

(d) For nouns ending in *Tā' Marbūṭah* and must carry *tanwīn*, see notes.

The transliteration of Arabic and Foreign Names

Foreign words which occur in an Arabic context and are written in Arabic letters are transliterated according to the rules for transliterating Arabic.

Germanus	Jārmānūs	جارمانوس	גֶּרְמָנוּס
Vivaldi	Fīfāldī	فيفالدي	פִּיפֶלְדִי
Picasso	Bīkāṣū	بيكاسو	בִּיקָסוּ
Isagoge	ʾĪsāyūjī	إيساغوجي	אִיסָגוּגִי

Names of Biblical figures of Hebrew origin remain unchanged in Arabic as well in the transliteration.

Abraham	ʾIbrāhīm	إبراهيم	אַבְרָהִים
Ishmael	ʾIsmāʾīl	إسماعيل	אַסְמָעִיל
Isaac	ʾIshāq	إسحاق	אַסְחָק
Moses	Mūsā	موسى	מוֹסֵה
Mary	Maryam	مريم	מַרְיָם
Joseph	Yūsuf	يوسف	יוֹסֵף
Jonah	Yūnus	يونس	יוֹנָס
Solomon	Sulāīmān	سليمان	סְלִימָן

Qur'ānic names in correlation with Biblical names are transliterated according to Arabic rules of orthography.

Jesus	ʾĪsā	عيسى	עִיסָה
John	Yaḥyā	يحيى	יַחְיָה
Jethro	Šuʿaīb	شعيب	שַׁעִיב
Saul	Ṭālūt	طالوت	טָלוּת

Qur'ānic names drawn from Mystic letters are retained in the transliteration.

Ṭāhā	طه	טָהָ
Yāsīn	يسن	יָסִן

Tā' Marbūṭah

(a) Feminine nouns and adjectives in Arabic end in ة.

(b) When a grammatical case or suffix is added to ة, it is pronounced like *t*, and is transliterated as ת followed by the suffix.

walīdatu	وليدة	ולידת
xalīfatun	خليفة	כליפתן

(c) When ة is not pronounced, it is transliterated as ה -*ah*, respectively.

madīnah	مدينة	מדינה
qaryah	قرية	קרית

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Further Reading and Resources

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